

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Apparatus for distribution of image, of either still or motion type, and audio information to a plurality of viewing locations, comprising:

means for independently receiving, at each of the plurality of viewing locations, at least one compressed and encrypted image file, which is associated with at least one corresponding image program, and a plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files, which are associated with a plurality of corresponding audio programs, for presentation at ~~at least one or more~~ preselected later times,

wherein the at least one compressed and encrypted image file is associated with [[and]] the plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files ~~are all associable using based on~~ at least one identifier for each of the at least one compressed and encrypted image file and the plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files;

means for independently storing the compressed and encrypted image and audio files in a storage system [[at]]included within each of the plurality of viewing locations ~~the compressed and encrypted image and audio files~~;

means for independently distributing the compressed and encrypted image and audio files from the storage system to at least one auditorium [[at]]included within each of the plurality of viewing locations[[,]] based at least in part on the at least one identifier;

means for independently receiving the compressed and encrypted image and audio files in each of the auditoriums;

means for independently decrypting the compressed and encrypted image and audio files in each of the auditoriums, resulting in at least one compressed image file and a plurality of compressed audio files;

means for independently decompressing the compressed image and audio files in each of the auditoriums, resulting in the at least one corresponding image program and the plurality of corresponding audio programs;

at least one projection system ~~[[in]]~~included within each of the auditoriums for receiving the at least one corresponding image program and presenting the at least one corresponding image program at the at least one preselected later -time; and

at least one sound system in each auditorium for receiving the plurality of corresponding audio programs and selectively playing at least one of the plurality of corresponding audio programs ~~with the~~ during the presentation ~~[[ed]]~~ of the ~~at least one~~ corresponding image program.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said compressed and encrypted image and audio files are each stored in a non contiguous manner independent of each other.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said compressed and encrypted image and audio files are compressed at a variable rate.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the at least one identifier is received, at each of the plurality of viewing locations, with each of the at least one compressed and encrypted image file and the plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files, and is unencrypted and uncompressed.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said compressed and encrypted image and audio files are compressed remotely.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising means for using the at least one identifier to link the selectively played at least one of the plurality of corresponding audio programs with the presented at least one corresponding image program.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein each of the plurality of corresponding audio programs comprises multiple audio tracks to be presented with the same at least one corresponding image program during different presentation events.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 further comprising a digital image generation system for generating the digitized image and audio information.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein said generation system comprises a digital camera.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the image and audio programs from said digital camera are captured, encrypted, compressed and broadcast in substantially real time to preselected authorized auditoriums by said central facility substantially contemporaneously with digitizing the image and audio information.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein said generation system comprises a Telecine device.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein said generation system comprises a computer-based workstation.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising means for storing the compressed and encrypted image and audio information in a storage system for transfer at the preselected later time.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising means for receiving cryptographic key information necessary for decryption of the compressed and

encrypted image and audio files at a separate time from the receiving of the compressed and encrypted image and audio files.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 16 further comprising means for storing and transporting said cryptographic key information necessary for decryption to authorized auditoriums at a time separate from distributing the compressed and encrypted image and audio-files.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 17 further comprising means for receiving a time interval over which said cryptographic key information is valid and for assuring that said cryptographic key information is only used during the indicated time interval.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 18 further comprising means for overwriting said cryptographic key information in a storage location after said time interval expires.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising means for receiving at least one watermark which is perceptually unnoticeable during presentation of the image or audio program at a predefined normal rate of transfer, but is detectable when said image or audio program is presented at a rate substantially different from said normal rate.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 20 wherein said watermark identifies both presentation time and location for the image or audio program.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 further comprising a modulation and transmission system for establishing a wireless communication link over which the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information is transferred between said central facility and said auditoriums.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein said means for transferring comprises means for broadcasting of said compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information to any of the auditoriums to allow multiple presentations of said one or more programs in different ones of said auditoriums at the same time.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein a transmission bit rate of said compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information is not equal to a bit rate at which said encrypted digitized image and audio information is compressed.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein a transmission bit rate of said compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information is equal to a bit rate at which said encrypted digitized image and audio information is compressed.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein additional checksum information is appended to said transferred compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information so as to allow detection of blocks of transmitted information in which transmission errors occur.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein said means for transferring comprises at least one satellite.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 27 further comprising at least one collocated satellite receiver terminal at said central facility for monitoring quality of a satellite channel used for transferring compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information so as to allow adjustments in transfer characteristics of said satellite channel to maintain a desired level of quality.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 further comprising a two-way transfer link disposed between said central facility and auditoriums over which data is exchanged.

Claim 30 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said data comprises data used for cryptographic security purposes.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said data comprises data used to request re-transmission of information received at said auditorium with errors.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising means for re-transmitting information having been received at said auditorium with errors over said two-way link.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said data comprises various monitor and control inputs and commands transferred between said central facility and auditoriums.

Claim 34 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said two-way link comprises a dedicated telephone data link.

Claim 35 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said two-way link comprises a dialup telephone data link.

Claim 36 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said two-way link comprises a packet type data link.

Claim 37 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said two-way link comprises an Internet based link.

Claim 38 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said two-way link comprises a wireless data link.

Claim 39 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein said two-way link comprises a satellite based data link.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 further comprising a network management system for managing a network of auditoriums to present images for viewing at authorized times and locations.

Claim 41 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 40 wherein said network management system provides operational control of each auditorium.

Claim 42 (Cancelled)

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the compressed and encrypted audio and image files are broadcast to pre-selected auditoriums at a given time.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 43 further comprising at least one decoder/decrypter integrated into each projection and sound system within each auditorium to prevent wiretapping and copying of the audio and image information.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 44 further comprising means for detecting physical intrusion into each projection and sound system within each auditorium and for erasing of decryption key information whenever such an intrusion is detected.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said means for distributing is configured to distribute the compressed and encrypted image and audio files for a single image program to different ones of a plurality of auditoriums, with each distribution including one or more preselected programmable offsets in time relative to the other distribution.

Claim 47 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein said preselected programmable offsets are substantially zero so that said single image program is presented to different ones of said auditoriums substantially simultaneously.

Claim 48 (Cancelled)

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said storage system comprises a data storage bank shared by multiple auditoriums.

Claim 50 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 49 wherein said data storage bank comprises an array of magnetic media storage devices.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 50 wherein said array of storage devices comprises means for using parity information to link different preselected portions of the compressed and encrypted image and audio files to different ones of said storage devices during storage and to a single auditorium at retrieval.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 50 wherein said storage system comprises means for parallel “striping” of received information across said array of storage devices to provide a desired data transfer rate and error protection redundancy.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 50 further comprising means for storing a viewing history of authorized image programs presented in each auditorium and for reporting said history to the storage system.

Claim 54 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 40 further comprising a theater management system for operational control and monitoring of auditoriums within a theater complex.

Claim 55 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 54 wherein said theater management system further comprises program control means for creating program sets from one or more

received individual image and audio programs, which are scheduled for presentation on an auditorium system during an authorized interval.

Claims 56-58 (Cancelled)

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a local theater network system for distributing stored information to one or more of a multiplicity of auditoriums.

Claim 60 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 59 comprising at least one local area network interface.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the image information is provided in the form of image programs which are in the form of either a single still frame or series of frames shown as motion pictures of varying length.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 wherein said means for transferring comprises at least one optical fiber network.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 wherein said means for transferring comprises at least one high speed wireline based network.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 wherein said means for transferring comprises means for wireless broadcast of signals containing said compressed and encrypted image and audio information.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 wherein said means for transferring comprises:

means for storing the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information, along with the at least one identifier, in said central facility; and

means for retrieving said stored information and at least one identifier onto a transportable storage medium for physical distribution to said auditoriums.

Claim 66 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 65 wherein said medium comprises optical storage medium.

Claim 67 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 65 wherein said medium comprises magnetic storage medium.

Claim 68 (Original): The apparatus of Claim 65 further comprising means for archiving said medium at said central facility.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 65 further comprising means for archiving said medium at said auditorium.

Claim 70 (Currently Amended): A method for distribution of image, of either still or motion type, and audio information to a plurality of viewing locations comprising:

independently receiving, at each of the plurality of viewing locations, at least one compressed and encrypted image file, which is associated with at least one corresponding image program, and a plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files, which are associated with a plurality of corresponding audio programs, for presentation at least one preselected later time, wherein

the at least one compressed and encrypted image file and the plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files are all associable using at least one identifier for each of the at least one compressed and encrypted image file and the plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files;

independently storing in a storage system included within, at each of the plurality of viewing locations[[,]] the compressed and encrypted image and audio files;

independently distributing the compressed and encrypted image and audio files from the storage system to at least one auditorium at included within each of the plurality of viewing locations[[,]] based at least in part on the at least one identifier;

independently receiving the compressed and encrypted image and audio files in each auditorium;

independently decrypting the compressed and encrypted image and audio files in each of the auditoriums, resulting in at least one compressed image file and a plurality of compressed audio files;

independently decompressing the compressed image and audio files in each of the auditoriums, resulting in the at least one corresponding image program and the plurality of corresponding audio programs;

receiving the at least one corresponding image program at least one projection system in each of the auditoriums and presenting the at least one corresponding image program at the at least one preselected later time; and

receiving the plurality of corresponding audio programs at at least one sound system in each auditorium and selectively playing at least one of the plurality of corresponding audio programs with the during the presentation [[ed]] at least one of the corresponding image program.

Claim 71 (Cancelled)

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 further comprising storing said compressed and encrypted image and audio files are stored in a non contiguous manner independent of each other.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 wherein said compressed and encrypted image and audio files are compressed at a variable rate.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 wherein the at least one identifier is received, at each of the plurality of viewing locations, with each of the at least one compressed and encrypted image file and the plurality of compressed and encrypted audio files, and is unencrypted and uncompressed.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 wherein said compressed and encrypted image and audio files are compressed remotely.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 further comprising using the at least one identifier to link the selectively played at least one of the plurality of corresponding audio programs with the presented at least one corresponding image program.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 76 wherein each of the plurality of corresponding audio programs comprises multiple audio tracks to be presented with the same at least one corresponding image program during different presentation events.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 further comprising generating the digitized image and audio information using a digital image generation system.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 78 comprising further using a digital camera for said generating.

Claim 80 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 79 further comprising capturing, encrypting, compressing and broadcasting the digitized image and audio information from said digital camera to preselected authorized auditoriums through said central facility substantially contemporaneous with digitizing of images.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 78 comprising using a computer based workstation for said generating.

Claim 82 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 further comprising storing the compressed and encrypted image and audio information in a storage system for transfer at the preselected later time.

Claim 83 (Cancelled)

Claim 84 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 further comprising receiving cryptographic key information necessary for decryption of the compressed and encrypted image and audio files at a time separate from said receiving of the encrypted and compressed image and audio files.

Claim 85 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus~~ method of Claim 84 further comprising receiving a time interval over which said cryptographic key information is valid and assuring that said cryptographic key information is only used during that interval.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended): The ~~apparatus~~ method of Claim 85 further comprising overwriting said cryptographic key information in a storage location after said time interval expires.

Claim 87 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 further comprising receiving at least one watermark which is perceptually unnoticeable during presentation of the image or audio program at a predefined normal rate of transfer, but is detectable when said image or audio program is presented at a rate substantially different from said normal rate.

Claim 88 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 87 wherein said watermark identifies both a presentation time and a location for the image or audio program.

Claim 89 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 further comprising modulating and transmitting the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information over a wireless communication link between said central facility and said auditoriums.

Claim 90 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 89 comprising broadcasting said compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information to any of the auditoriums to allow multiple presentations of said one or more programs in different ones of said auditoriums at the same time.

Claim 91 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 89 comprising using a transmission bit rate for the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information that is not equal to a bit rate at which said encrypted digitized image and audio information is compressed.

Claim 92 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 89 comprising using a transmission bit rate for the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information that is equal to a bit rate at which said encrypted digitized image and audio information is compressed.

Claim 93 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 89 comprising appending checksum information to said transferred compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information so as to allow detection of blocks of transmitted information in which transmission errors occur.

Claim 94 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 89 comprising using at least one satellite for transferring the information to said auditoriums.

Claim 95 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 94 further comprising collocating at least one satellite receiver terminal at said central facility and monitoring quality of a satellite channel used for transferring compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information therewith, so as to allow adjusting transfer characteristics of said satellite channel to maintain a desired level of quality.

Claim 96 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 further comprising exchanging data over a two-way transfer link disposed between said central facility and auditoriums.

Claim 97 (Original): The method of Claim 96 comprising using said data for cryptographic security purposes

Claim 98 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 96 requesting re-transmission of information received at said auditoriums with errors.

Claim 99 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 98 further comprising re-transmitting information having been received at said auditoriums with errors over said two-way link.

Claim 100 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 96 wherein said data comprises various monitor and control inputs and commands transferred between said central facility and auditoriums.

Claim 101 (Original): The method of Claim 96 comprising using a dedicated telephone data link as said two-way link.

Claim 102 (Original): The method of Claim 96 comprising using a dialup telephone data link as said two-way link.

Claim 103 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 96 comprising using a packet type data link as said two-way link.

Claim 104 (Original): The method of Claim 96 comprising using an Internet based link as said two-way link.

Claim 105 (Original): The method of Claim 96 comprising using a wireless data link as said two-way link.

Claim 106 (Original): The method of Claim 96 comprising using a satellite based data link as said two-way link.

Claim 107 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 further comprising a network management system for managing a network of auditoriums to present images for viewing at authorized times and locations.

Claim 108 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 107 wherein said network management system provides operational control of each auditorium.

Claim 109 (Cancelled)

Claim 110 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 comprising broadcasting the compressed and encrypted audio and image files to pre-selected auditoriums at a given time.

Claim 111 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 110 further comprising integrating at least one decoder/decrypter into each projection and sound system within each auditorium to prevent wiretapping and copying.

Claim 112 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 111 further comprising detecting physical intrusion into each projection and sound system for an auditorium system and for erasure of decryption key information whenever such an intrusion is detected.

Claim 113 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 further comprising transferring the compressed and encrypted image and audio files for a single image program to different ones of a plurality of auditoriums, with each transfer including one or more preselected programmable offsets in time relative to the other transfers.

Claim 114 (Original): The method of Claim 113 comprising reducing said preselected programmable offsets to be substantially zero so that said single image program is presented to different ones of said auditoriums substantially simultaneously.

Claim 115 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 wherein said storage system comprises a data storage bank shared by multiple auditoriums.

Claim 116 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 115 comprising using an array of magnetic media storage devices as said storage system.

Claim 117 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 116 comprising using parity information to link different preselected portions of the encrypted and compressed image and audio files to different ones of said devices during storage and to a single auditorium at retrieval.

Claim 118 (Original): The method of Claim 116 comprising parallel “striping” of received information across said array of storage devices to provide a desired data transfer rate and error protection redundancy.

Claim 119 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 116 further comprising storing a viewing history of authorized image program presented in each auditorium and reporting said history to the storage system.

Claim 120 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 70 further comprising controlling the operation of and monitoring of auditoriums within a theater complex using a theater management system.

Claim 121 (Original): The method of Claim 120 further comprising creating program sets within said theater management system from one or more received individual image and

audio programs, which are scheduled for presentation on an auditorium system during an authorized interval.

Claim 122 (Cancelled)

Claim 123 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 120 further comprising automatically distributing, storing, and presenting programs under programmable control from a control element remote from said storage system

Claim 124 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 120 further comprising controlling certain preselected network operations from a location remote from said storage system.

Claim 125 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 120 further comprising distributing stored information to one or more of a multiplicity of auditorium locations for presentation to an audience over a local theater network system.

Claim 126 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 70 further comprising providing image information in the form of image programs which are in the form of either a single still frame or series of frames shown as motion pictures of varying length.

Claim 127 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 wherein said transferring comprises using at least one optical fiber network.

Claim 128 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 wherein said transferring comprises using at least one high speed wireline based network.

Claim 129 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 wherein said transferring comprises:

storing the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information, along with the at least one identifier, in said central facility;

retrieving said stored information and at least one identifier onto a transportable storage medium for physical distribution to said auditoriums.

Claim 130 (Original): The method of Claim 129 wherein said medium comprises optical storage medium.

Claim 131 (Original): The method of Claim 129 wherein said medium comprises magnetic storage medium.

Claim 132 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 129 further comprising archiving said medium at said central facility.

Claim 133 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 129 further comprising archiving said medium at said auditoriums.

Claim 134 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 wherein said transferring step comprises using at least one high speed wireline based network.

Claim 135 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 comprising employing redundancy in said central facility and auditoriums for preselected functions for assuring reliable operation in a variety of anticipated operating situations.

Claim 136 (Currently Amended): Apparatus for distribution of digitized image, of either still or motion type, and audio information to a plurality of viewing locations, comprising:
a central facility for receiving and storing the digitized image and audio information,
wherein the digital image information comprises an image program, wherein the audio
information comprises a plurality of audio programs, and wherein the image program is
associated with the plurality of audio programs;

means for encrypting the digitized image and audio information;

means for compressing the encrypted digitized image and audio information;

means for transferring, from said central facility, the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information as the image program and the plurality of audio one or more programs to the plurality of viewing locations, each including one or more remotely located auditoriums, at a plurality of preselected later times with preselected offsets, wherein

the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information are transferred along with at least one uncompressed and unencrypted identifier used to identify which of the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information are associated with each of the image and audio one or more programs at each of the one or more remotely located auditoriums.

Claim 137 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 further comprising means for providing cryptographic key information necessary for decryption of the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information at authorized auditoriums at a separate time from said transferring of the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information.

Claim 138 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 137 further comprising means for storing and transporting said cryptographic key information.

Claim 139 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 138 further comprising means for indicating a time interval over which said cryptographic key information is valid and for assuring that said cryptographic key information is only used during the indicated time interval.

Claim 140 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 139 further comprising means for facilitating the overwriting of said cryptographic key information in a storage location after said time interval expires.

Claim 141 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 136 further comprising means for adding at least one watermark which is perceptually unnoticeable during presentation of

the image or audio program at a predefined normal rate of transfer, but is detectable when said image or audio program is presented at a rate substantially different from said normal rate.

Claim 142 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of Claim 141 wherein said watermark identifies both presentation time and location for the image or audio program.

Claim 143 (Currently Amended): A method for distribution of digitized image, of either still or motion type, and audio information to a plurality of viewing locations, comprising:

receiving and storing in a central facility the digitized image and audio information, wherein the digital image information comprises an image program, wherein the audio information comprises a plurality of audio programs, and wherein the image program is associated with the plurality of audio programs;

encrypting the digitized image and audio information;

compressing the encrypted digitized image and audio information;

transferring, from the central facility, the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information as the image program and the plurality of one or more audio programs to the plurality of viewing locations, each including one or more remotely located auditoriums, at a plurality of preselected later times with preselected offsets, wherein

the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information are transferred along with at least one uncompressed and unencrypted identifier used to identify which of the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information are associated with each of the image and audio one or more programs at each of the one or more remotely located auditoriums.

Claim 144 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 further comprising storing the compressed and encrypted image and audio information in said central facility for transfer at a later predetermined time.

Claim 145 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 further comprising encrypting said digitized image and audio information at said central facility and decrypting the resulting encrypted digitized image and audio information at said auditoriums.

Claim 146 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 145 further comprising storing and transporting cryptographic key information necessary for decryption of the compressed and encrypted image and audio information to authorized auditoriums at a time separate from said transferring of the compressed and encrypted digitized image and audio information.

Claim 147 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 145 further comprising indicating a time interval over which said cryptographic key information is valid and assuring that said cryptographic key information is only used during that interval.

Claim 148 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 147 further comprising overwriting said cryptographic key information in a storage location after said time interval expires.

Claim 149 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 143 further comprising adding at least one watermark which is perceptually unnoticeable during presentation of image or audio program at a predefined normal rate of transfer, but is detectable when said image or audio program is presented at a rate substantially different from said normal rate.

Claim 150 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 149 further comprising configuring said watermark to identify both a presentation time and a location for the image or audio program.

Claim 151 (Currently Amended): A digital cinema system distribution of images, of either still or motion type, and audio information to at least one viewing location, comprising:

source generation system comprising means for generating digital image and audio information, wherein the digital image information comprises an image program, wherein

the audio information comprises a plurality of audio programs, and wherein the image program is associated with the plurality of audio programs;

 a compression system, coupled to the source generating system, comprising means for processing digital image and audio information, wherein means for processing comprises compressing the image and audio information segregated in time;

 a transmission system, coupled to the compression system, comprising means for transmitting the image and audio information segregated in time, wherein the segregated in time image and audio information is associated with each other with a corresponding identification mechanism as part of programming material which is also transmitted;

 at least one theater system, which receives received the transmitted image and audio information and programming material, comprising means for selectively storing the transmitted programming material received programming material and means for decoding the transmitted image and audio information;

 a network management system comprising a hub coupled to the at least one theatre system, wherein the network management comprises means for adjusting the compression system or transmission system when the transmitted image and audio information has been determined to be of poor quality.

Claim 152 (Previously Presented): The digital cinema system of claim 151, wherein a compression rate is changed based on a means for detecting loss of data frames and from the received image and audio information at the at least one theater system.

Claim 153 (Previously Presented): The digital cinema system of claim 151, wherein a transmitted signal power from the transmission system is changed based on a means for detecting loss of data frames and from the received image and audio information at the at least one theater system.

Claim 154 (Previously Presented): The digital cinema system of claim 151, wherein portions of the image and audio information is automatically re-sent by the transmission system based on a means for detecting loss of data frames and from the received image and audio information at the at least one theater system.

Claim 155 (Previously Presented): The digital cinema system of claim 151, wherein transmission of the image and audio information is completely interrupted based on a means for detecting loss of data frames and from the received image and audio information at the at least one theater system.

Claim 156 (Previously Presented): The digital cinema system of claim 151, further comprising at least one collocated theater system for monitoring quality of the image and audio information, received from a transmitter sending image and audio information to the at least one collocated theater system.

Claim 157 (Previously Presented): The digital cinema system of claim 156, wherein the at least one collocated theater system provides a reception quality to the network management system.

Claim 158 (Previously Presented): The digital cinema system of claim 151, wherein the means for adjusting further comprises means for detecting loss of data frames and means for detecting error rates of the received image and audio information at the at least one theater system.